

# MEMS NEWSLETTER

## MEMS NEWSLETTER

**JUNE 2006**

**Volume 3, Issue 007**

**A forum for sharing progress on the on-going MEMS activities and other related professional matters between MEMS and Participating Health Facilities**  
*(Issued By Mission for Essential Medical Supplies - MEMS)*

---

**Dear reader,**

We are obliged to release our seventh (7<sup>th</sup>) issue, Let's spare some minutes to go through this newsletter and get some updates on MEMS activities.

### Prime Vendor Updates

The newly selected prime vendor IDA/Pyramid Pharma has finally signed the contract and he will be responsible for supplying drugs and medical supplies to the Participating Health Facilities. Pyramid Pharma is the agent of International Dispensing Association (IDA) in Tanzania. Based on previous experience, the signed contract includes annex of contractual arrangements between the two parties forming the prime vendor and responsibilities of each party in the execution of the prime vendor contract

### Onsite Training / Support Supervision

As we all know, one of MEMS activities includes training to the PHFs, we are glad to inform you that the training modules are in the draft form, and they include Inventory Management; Quality Assurance; Rational Use of Medicines and Financial Management. So far, we have pre-tested the Inventory Management and Quality Assurance modules at Ngoyoni Catholic Hospital, we are grateful for their inputs / suggestions and shall in-corporate them. Part of the inventory module deals with identifying items to order, order quantities and preparation of 3-months order has been tested at Ilula, Marangu & Nkoaranga hospitals. We plan to make further pre-tests of the modules in other health facilities and share the modules with other stakeholders for finalization.

Support supervision is still an ongoing activity and has been conducted at Bumbuli, Nkoaranga, St.Raphael and St. Elizabeth hospitals.

### MEMS Strategic Plan

MEMS started as a pilot project to serve the faith based health facilities in response to poor availability of drugs and medical supplies; their quality and the high costs. Since the beginning, the project did not have its strategic plan on hand. We are pleased to

inform you that a series of meetings had been conducted with various consultants and the members of MEMS Technical & Advisory Committee to develop the strategic plan for the next three years from July 2006 – June 2009. The Vision, Mission, and Core values of MEMS have been defined to be in line with MEMS identity as a faith based organization striving to promote better health. Strategic areas of focus have also been identified to maximize possibilities of MEMS sustainability. We are on the final touches of the document and shall share the same with our stakeholders. The strategic plan will guide us in implementing the activities of the project.

### IT/Communication

Since the commencement of MEMS project, issues related to Information Technology (IT) where mainly conducted in collaboration with Simbanet the Internet Service Provider (ISP). Through this experience and MEMS being inadequate in this technology, MEMS and Managed Health Care Programme of ELCT came to an agreement on establishing an Information Technology Support Unit. Key staff to this unit have been identified and hired. Guidelines for MEMS to work with the IT Support Unit are to be developed. The benefit of having this unit is that qualified professionals will be solving the IT related issues and visiting the MEMS health facilities for trouble shooting. More updates will be shared with the health facilities after the finalization of the guidelines.

### Rational Drug Use (RDU)

The final reports on baseline survey on the Rational Use of Drugs have been submitted to MEMS and we MEMS staff wish to take the next step on intervention to promote the Rational Use of Medicines. MEMS shall soon share with the facilities on the planned intervention activities on both general and hospital specific.

### Annual Meeting

It has been a great pleasure that we had a successful meeting with the PHFs and other stakeholders, which was conducted in three consecutive days from 1<sup>st</sup> to

3<sup>rd</sup> August 2006. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss a number of issues including MEMS project progress; Prime vendor operations; Pricing adjustments; Sharing feedback between PHFs and MEMS as well as Planning interventions to promote rational use of medicines. Final proceedings of the meeting will be sent to our stakeholders

### Financial Issues and Payments

It needs very sound information to make a sound decision on the future of any business.

Let's keep track on financial issues; they form part of the heart of any business.

The Financial Training Module will be out soon to emphasise the importance of managing our finances. Despite of MEMS being a unique business platform, having a unique set of customers (faith based customers), who have unique beliefs (serving the community without making profit), at the end we all need to be *sustainable on provision of service*.

Let's join our hands and don't break the chain.

The amount of money received today is more valuable than the same amount of money received in the future.

Please pay your debts on time - Play your part and Let's build the future together.



### Staff Related Issues

Anne Vestskov who had been working with MEMS for almost two years is no longer with us. Her contract ended early this year and she is now in her homeland, Denmark. We are grateful for her inputs and contributions while working with the project. We do wish her, the very best in her future.

*We would like to encourage the health facilities to send articles, which can then be in-corporated in the coming newsletters. Please use the following address, where you can find also pharmaceutical links.*

<http://health.elct.org/links/index.htm>

Information on MEMS can be accessed through ELCT website:

<http://health.elct.org/projects/index.htm>

### **For further communication please contact:**

Mission for Essential Medical Supplies (MEMS)

P. O. Box 1005, Arusha, Tanzania.

Tel: (+255) 27 250 9366

Cell Phone: 0748 74 33 75

Fax: (+255) 27 254 4908

Email: [info@mems.or.tz](mailto:info@mems.or.tz)